

**03 July
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COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

CPA DAILY

Key Quote

We met the major combat objectives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We ended a regime that possessed weapons of mass destruction, harbored and supported terrorists, suppressed human rights, and defied the just demands of the United Nations and the world.

The true monuments of Saddam Hussein's rule have been brought to light -- the mass graves, the torture chambers, the jail cells for children. And now we are moving forward with the reconstruction of that country by restoring basic services, maintaining order, searching for the hidden weapons, and helping Iraqis to establish a representative government.

The rise of Iraq as an example of moderation and democracy and prosperity is a massive and long-term undertaking. And the restoration of that country is critical to the defeat of terror and radicalism throughout the Middle East. With so much in the balance, it comes as no surprise that freedom has enemies inside of Iraq. The looting and random violence that began in the immediate aftermath of war remains a challenge in some areas. A greater challenge comes from former Baath Party and security officials who will stop at nothing to regain their power and their privilege.

But there will be no return to tyranny in Iraq. And those who threaten the order and stability of that country will face ruin, just as surely as the regime they once served.

President Bush, Reenlistment of Military Service Members, 1 July

Key Messages

- Coalition Forces continue to robustly patrol Iraq to eliminate crimes against people and property, rid populated areas of weapons, ammunition and explosives, and stop the black market trade in fuel and other commodities.
- Coalition Forces continue to conduct joint security patrols with Iraqi police in their efforts to increase the professionalism of the police force and prepare them for their role in a self-governed Iraq.
- Our task now is to help the Iraqis rebuild their economy.
- Economic team are working hard on a number of initiatives which will help get the economy going, and provide some much-needed jobs.
- After decades of manipulation and mismanagement, the road to a free and flourishing economy will not be an easy one. But we've already taken one big step: which was the ending of sanctions.

Diary

1230 – Brief on Explosion in Fallujah

1400 – Background Brief – CPA Spokesman

1700 – Press Conference – General Sanchez

Facts **INITIAL MEETING OF THE BASRA PROVINCE INTERIM COUNCIL**

A significant step toward Iraqi self-governance in Basra Province took place yesterday with the inaugural meeting of the Basra Province Interim Council. Twenty nominees attended, representing a broad cross section of local society, professionals, academics, businessmen, politicians, Shia, Sunni, Christians, women and tribal representatives. Two more were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

This meeting follows intensive consultations, where strenuous efforts were made to obtain broad backing for this process. Selection of members was made on the basis of honesty, effectiveness and qualifications. None of the council members should have been senior members of the Baath Party.

The Provisional Chairman, Ambassador O Woehlers Olsen (CPA Regional Coordinator for the Southern Region) commented:

"I very much welcome the fact that all present today have confirmed their willingness to serve the people of Basra Province. This is the first time in many decades that the people of Southern Iraq will have a say in the decisions made in Baghdad. This is a highly significant event."

After the introductions, the Ambassador and his staff left the meeting whilst the Interim Council elected its own Acting Chairman, pending the election of a Permanent Chairman (who will also be the Governor of Basra Province) and a Deputy Chairman. The Interim Council announced that they would meet again at 5.00pm on Saturday 5 July at the former Information Ministry building to elect a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman by secret ballot.